

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 EB-08
COME-00 MCE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/067 W

-----015479 271239Z /20

O 271255Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3987
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
DOD ISA/EUR WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 19332

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN HAWK

REF: A) BRUSSELS 18647, B) STATE 306094

1. INFORMATION AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS TRANSMITTED
REFTEL B ON DRAFT USG-GOB MOU WAS GIVEN AT OPENING OF
BUSINESS DECEMBER 27 TO COLONEL GILBERT DUPONT, THE
OFFICER IN MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS' CABINET WHO FOLLOWS HELIP.

2. DUPONT GAVE US A COPY OF MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS' DECEMBER 21 LETTER TO SECDEF BROWN (SEPTTEL), WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN DELIVERED BY THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE TOLD US THAT VDB'S PREVIOUS LETTER, DATED DECEMBER 12 (BRUSSELS 18602), HAD NOT BEEN CLEARED BY INTERESTED BELGIAN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, BUT THAT THE DECEMBER 21 LETTER WAS FULLY CLEARED (BY FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) AND REFLECTED THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT'S POSITION.

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3. DUPONT'S IMMEDIATE REACTION TO THE INFORMATION (REFTEL B) ON USG CONSIDERATION OF A MOU WAS HIGHLY FAVORABLE. HE SIGNALLLED OUT AS PARTICULARLY USEFUL THE INFORMATION THAT THE USG WAS THINKING IN TERMS OF A MOU AND THAT THE OFFSET WOULD EQUAL THE NET DOLLOR FLOW TO THE U.S. FROM BELGIANPURCHASESOF AN IMPROVED HAWK

(TAKING RAYTHEON PURCHASES IN BELGIUM INTO ACCOUNT).
DUPONT SAID HE WOULD CONTACT THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS MINISTRIES IMMEDIATELY AND PROVIDE US WITH ANY
OTHER COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS ASAP.

4. DUPONT WENT ON TO STRESS THAT SPEED IN ACHIEVING A MOU
WAS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO ASSURE BELGIAN PARTICIPATION IN
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HELIP. VANDEN BOEYNANTS TOLD DUPONT THAT HELIP WOULD
BE DECIDED AT THE FIRST 1978 CABINET MEETING ON JANUARY 13.
THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF DOCUMENTS FOR THAT CABINET
MEETING WILL BE JANUARY 6 AND, THEREFORE, THE DOCUMENTS,
INCLUDING A MOU, MUST BE READY BY JANUARY 3.

5. DUPONT WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT NOT ALL THE DETAILS OF
THE OFFSET PROPOSAL NEED TO HAVE BEEN WORKED OUT BY THAT
DATE, BUT THAT AN UMBRELLA MOU UNDER THE TERMS OF WHICH
EXPERTS CAN NEGOTIATE IMPLEMENTING DETAILS IS ESSENTIAL.
HE UNDERLINED THE PROBLEM OF RISING COSTS AND THE
LIMITED AMOUNT OF BELGIAN FINANCING AVAILABLE FOR HELIP.
HE SAID THAT SUPPLEMENTARY CREDITS ARE OUT OF THE QUES-
TION FOR BELGIAN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS. HE
WAS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT AFTER MID-JANUARY, IF NO
DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, RAYTHEON WOULD IMPOSE GREATER
COSTS TO BELGIUM ON A "STAND ALONE PROCUREMENT" BASIS.
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6. DUPONT, THEREFORE, SAID THAT IT IS URGENT AND
ESSENTIAL THAT NEGOTIATIONS, AT WHICH CONCRETE IDEAS
CAN LEAD TO THE SIGNATURE OF A MOU, BEGIN IN THE
IMMEDIATE FUTURE. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO
START SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WHENEVER AND WHEREVER
THE USG PREFERS. CHAMBERS

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Concepts: MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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From: BRUSSELS
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